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PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket No. D/99423Q

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Dennis L. Venable

Application No.: 09/411,212

Filed: 10/04/99

Examiner: Mehrdad Dastouri

Art Unit: 2623

Confirmation No.: 8000

Title: **DETECTING OVERLAPPING IMAGES IN AN  
AUTOMATIC IMAGE SEGMENTATION DEVICE  
WITH THE PRESENCE OF SEVERE BLEEDING**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

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Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*Francie S. LePore*

Francie S. LePore

**RECEIVED**

MAR 03 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In keeping with a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114, and responsive to the Final Office Action of November 10, 2003, please amend the application as follows: